

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/IB2005/050184

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 7 G06F17/30

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, INSPEC, WPI Data, PAJ

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2003/191753 A1 (HOCH MICHAEL) 9 October 2003 (2003-10-09)	1,2,4-6, 11-14, 17,18,21 3
Y	abstract; figures 3A,3B,3C,4,6 paragraphs [0006], [0046] - [0058] paragraphs [0061], [0064], [0065] paragraphs [0070] - [0075], [0090] ----- -/--	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

## \* Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

21 April 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

19.07.05

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/IB2005/050184

## Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:  
1-6, 11-14, 17, 18, 21

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-6, 11-14, 17, 18, 21

The first group of claims describes an apparatus (a generator), a system and a method for generating a playlist, which appear to be characterised in the means/steps for a) searching a source of material (e.g. a collection of songs) with usage of a first set of parameters in order to provide therefrom a first subset of identifications of items, and

b) searching said first subset of identifications with usage of a second set of parameters in order to provide therefrom a second subset of identifications of items (i.e. the playlist).

The multiple independent claims present in this group seem to describe different embodiments or configurations of the same alleged invention.

Dependent claims present in this group seem to describe different embodiments of the aforementioned alleged invention, characterised by different choices of the first and second sets of parameters so that they represent different personal preferences of the user.

The problem to be solved by the subject matter of these claims seems to be how to provide a scalable method/apparatus for generating a personalised playlist best suiting user's personal preferences out of a very large collection of media items (e.g. songs).

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2. claims: 7-10, 15, 16, 19, 20

The second group of claims describes an apparatus (a generator), a system and a method for generating a playlist, which appear to be characterised in the means/steps for

- a) searching a source of material (e.g. a collection of songs) with usage of a first set of parameters in order to provide therefrom a first subset of identifications of items, and

- b) searching said first subset of identifications with usage of a second set of parameters in order to provide therefrom a second subset of identifications of items (i.e. the playlist),

where the first set of parameters is based on accesses to the items within the source of material, and searching the source of material further includes:

- c) determining a frequency of access of each of a plurality of items within the source of material, and

- d) selecting the identifications of items for inclusion in the first subset of identifications based at least in part on the frequency of access of each of the plurality of items.

Dependent claims present in this group seem to describe different specific embodiments or configurations of the same alleged invention.

The problem to be solved by the subject matter of these claims seems to be how to provide a user-friendly method/apparatus for generating a playlist out of a very large library of media items (e.g. songs), suitable for users unable to provide specific parameters which could be used for searching at the beginning of the playlist generation process (e.g. for users having difficulties with expressing their preferences) or/and for users which want to retrieve most popular media items ("top hits") only.

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## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	PAUWS S ET AL: "PATS: Realization and User Evaluation of an Automatic Playlist Generator" PROCEEDINGS OF 3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MUSIC INFORMATION RETRIEVAL (ISMIR 2002), PARIS, FRANCE, 13 October 2002 (2002-10-13), - 17 October 2002 (2002-10-17) pages 1-9, XP002325429 INSTITUT DE RECHERCHE ET COORDINATION ACOUSTIQUE ET MUSIQUE IRCAM CENTRE POMPIDOU, PARIS, FRANCE page 1, paragraph 1 - page 2, paragraph 2.1 -----	3
X	US 5 886 698 A (SCIAMMARELLA ET AL) 23 March 1999 (1999-03-23)  abstract; figures 6,7A,7B,8 column 5, line 56 - column 7, line 14 -----	1,2,4-6, 11-14, 17,18,21
X	US 6 526 411 B1 (WARD SEAN) 25 February 2003 (2003-02-25)  abstract; figure 3 column 2, lines 11-45 column 3, lines 1-6 column 4, line 40 - column 5, line 24 column 6, line 55 - column 7, line 2 -----	1,2,4-6, 11-14, 17,18,21
X	AUCOUTURIER J ET AL: "Scaling up music playlist generation" PROCEEDINGS OF 2002 IEEE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MULTIMEDIA AND EXPO, ICME '02, LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND, 26-29 AUG. 2002, IEEE CS, US, vol. 1, 26 August 2002 (2002-08-26), pages 105-108, XP010604317 ISBN: 0-7803-7304-9 the whole document see in particular sec.3.4 and 3.5 on p.108 -----	1,5,6, 11,13, 14,17,21

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2003191753	A1	09-10-2003	AU 2003220652 A1	27-10-2003
			DE 10392490 T5	17-02-2005
			EP 1495411 A1	12-01-2005
			GB 2404060 A	19-01-2005
			WO 03088061 A1	23-10-2003
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US 5886698	A	23-03-1999	NONE	
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US 6526411	B1	25-02-2003	NONE	
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